

Current (See also under Race Problem Africa)

LIBERIA GETS \$60,000 FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES

Special to THE NEW YORK AGE, 10-9-13

Washington, D. C., Oct. 8.—The American Colonization Society, the only private corporation in history that ever successfully established an independent nation, Tuesday paid over to its ward, Liberia, more than \$60,000, the increment of an idle fund, for the education of the children of the Negro republic.

The fund was the bequest of Caroline Donovan of Baltimore, devised twenty-seven years ago for this purpose, but it had not been possible to arrange for the proper disbursement of the interest.

In addition to the \$60,000 paid Tuesday to Consul-General Ernest Lyon of Liberia by Dr. Henry L. E. Johnson, president of the society, the annual interest on the fund hereafter will be used to aid American Negroes desirous of emigrating to Liberia.

freezer.

United States to Aid Liberia
To the Editor of The Age:

In the issue of The Age of the 3d inst. there appeared a special despatch from Washington, dated July 2, bearing the caption "Liberia Will Get No Aid from the U. S. A." The caption might have been a typographical error, I am inclined to this opinion since the body of the dispatch did not coincide with its caption.

I am quite sure that you will correct this misleading headline when I inform you officially that nothing has been said or given out by the State Department of Washington to warrant the announcement that Liberia will get no aid from the United States. To the contrary the American State Department has given assurance to the Liberian representative that the United States will stand by the arrangement of the former administration and the Government has been so impressed by official correspondence. It is fair to the American Government, as well as helpful to Liberia, that the fact should be stated.

Liberia has enemies, and such a misleading publication, from so powerful a journal as The New York Age, would furnish occasion for political speculation, and at the same time, might also create a condition of unrest in the republic, that would prove disastrous in its consequences. For these reasons I respectfully ask that the correction be made.

Respectfully,

ERNEST LYON, L. C. G.

WANT BIG SLICE OF LIBERIA.

According to the London Times, an agreement has been concluded between the representatives of the Liberian government in London and Messrs. Lever Brothers (Limited), which awaits endorsement by the Liberian Legislature. The agreement, if ratified, may be expected to raise a number of questions

in the international sphere. According to its terms Lever Brothers can acquire, within ten years' time and in successive stages, a lease of Liberian territory aggregating 12,000 square miles, or more than one-fourth of the entire area of the country. The lease is due to expire in December, 1946, when it can be extended for 999 years. The Liberian government receives a rent of \$5 per square mile leased. The rights acquired by the lessee are comprehensive; they include the monopoly of gathering and preparing the fruit of the oil-palm; the monopoly of enjoyment and usage of the land in any form whatsoever, including cutting and exporting timber, and the monopoly of trade with the natives.

LIBERIA WILL GET NO AID FROM U. S. A.

Special to THE NEW YORK AGE:

WASHINGTON, D. C., July 2.—Dr. Ernest Lyon, Liberian consul general to the United States, and Secretary State Bryan held a conference regarding Liberian conditions Saturday. The Secretary was anxious to learn of conditions in the West African republic. Dr. Lyon expressed himself as being much pleased with the meeting.

Liberia had intended sending a commission here this summer to enlist friendly interest of the present administration in Liberian affairs, but it was postponed after several prominent white American made a plea to the admir-

LIBERIAN GOVERNMENT MAKES AN APPOINTMENT

Special to THE NEW YORK AGE 11-27-13

WASHINGTON, D. C., Nov. 25.—William H. York of Chicago, has been appointed lieutenant in Liberian Frontier Forces by the Liberian Government a salary of \$1,200 a year. Mr. York was selected for the position upon the recommendation of Major Charles Young, military attache at Monrovia. Negotiations were carried on through the State Department at Washington.

Mr. York is in Washington looking after his transportation and other matters. The new lieutenant in Liberian Frontier Forces is 30 years old and was born in Springfield, Ill. He saw four years' service in the Philippines, a short time in Cuba, and has traveled extensively in the West. He is a graduate of the scientific department of Wilberforce University. While at the institute he was connected with the military department and was captain of Company B for two years.

Mr. Naylor opened a real estate office in Chicago last September with A. W. Naylor.

SIARR/GETS 'CURIOS' New York Age

University of Chicago Scientist Returns from Abroad with Odd Collection—Has Good Word for Liberia.

(Special to THE NEW YORK AGE.)

Chicago, Ill., Jan. 14.—Malaysian riddles, Dutch rebuses and Liberian head measurements comprise a small but interesting part of the material brought to the University of Chicago last week by Prof. Frederick Starr of the anthropology department on his return from a trip abroad.

With Harry Johnson, a Chicago Negro, and Campbell Marvin, a graduate student of the University of Chicago, Prof. Starr made a walking trip of 150 miles into the interior of Africa, after visiting the Liberian city of Monrovia. Among the places visited during the trip were Teneriffe, Casa Blanca, Nazaban, Zaffi, Mogador and the Mpesse territory.

"The primary purpose of my trip was to investigate the social, economic and political conditions of Liberia," said Prof. Starr. "I found the country one of the most interesting from these points of view, and shall have something definite to say about them all in my future lectures. Liberia is a fine field for American enterprise."

"We took 14,000 feet of moving picture films, and as an example of our industry, I measured the heads of 200 native soldiers of the Liberian frontier force. While abroad I received the sad news of the death of Manuel Gonzales, my Mexican boy, who has accompanied me on many of my trips in different parts of the world."

"We were in Morocco at a decidedly lively time. The old empire was just in its death throes, and there was plenty of opportunity for observation."

SITUATION IN LIBERIA IS CRITICAL

N.Y. Age 4-24-13

Frederick Starr Says Long Standing Boundary Question Remains Unsettled—Expensive and Complicated International Receivership.

Discussing "The Needs of Liberia" in a recent issue of the Open Court, Frederick Starr says:

The situation of Liberia is critical. Her long-troubling boundary questions with Great Britain and France are not permanently settled; they have been re-opened and both countries are pressing.

we did well to come to her financial aid; but we did badly in needlessly inflicting upon her an expensive and complicated international receivership instead of an economical, simple and national one.

Liberia's crying needs are:

a. Training of her native frontier force to protect her boundaries and maintain order there;

b. Development of existing trails, with their ultimate transformation into roads and railroad beds;

c. Restoration and development of agriculture—now neglected;

d. Education, especially along lines of manual and technical training.

Liberia's greatest asset is her native population; only by imbuing it with the feeling of common interest and by securing its hearty co-operation can the government of Africa's only republic hope to maintain itself and prosper.

SOUTH AFRICAN OFFICIAL ASKS JUSTICE

Dispatches to the London papers from South Africa state that Gen. Botha, the new Minister of Native Affairs, has declared that it is the white man's duty in South Africa to see that the natives get justice. 10-16-13.

In outlining his policy as Minister of Native Affairs, Gen. Botha said he did not believe in ruling the natives with a sjambok. He regarded them as minors and the whites as their guardians. Natives had no direct representation in Parliament. It therefore behooved them to treat the minors with justice, fairness and honesty of purpose.

Gen. Botha added that when the report of the commission appointed in August last to consider the question of purchase or lease of land by natives had been published he would appeal to the people for guidance. He wanted a policy that would lead to peace between whites and blacks.

BOLEY CITIZENS**MAKE DENIAL****Proposed African Movement In Great Disfavor.****TRUTH ABOUT THE MATTER.**

Caribbean Amer.

1-7-14

Boley, Okla.—Mayor C. B. Powell, M. J. Jones, president of the Commer-

cial club, and other prominent citizens of this town have signed and caused to be issued the following statement to the public in reference to one Alfred C. Sam. The document says:

"We have had reports from various parts of the country stating that people have been advised that many of the best people of the town of Boley are following a movement to the Gold Coast of Africa. In order that those who are interested may know the truth we are issuing the following facts just as they are and for whatever they are worth to the public:

"We regret in the first place that it becomes necessary to have to make a statement in which we are forced to defend ourselves from a false attack of one of the race. It would rather be expected that if we had enemies they would come from other sources. Yet we are frank to acknowledge that there is a man in this section who calls himself Chief Alfred C. Sam and who claims to be a native of the Ashanti tribe of the Gold Coast of Africa.

"This man is working among our people here, seeking whom he may devour among a class of poor, aged, helpless and ignorant people who are, as a rule, the most wretched of all the people of our section of the state. The people who are following this man are a class who deserve rather to be helped than taken from.

"This man Sam claims to be a divine healer of the sick, a prophet, etc. He also claims he is the chief of the Ashanti tribe of Africa and president of the Akim Trading company, which is to buy a ship and engage in trade in Africa and the United States.

"He came to Boley a few months ago and represented that he was president of the Akim Trading company, then of New York. But since that time he has changed his place of incorporation to South Dakota. In the original company one A. E. Smith of 61 East One Hundred and Twenty-sixth street, New York, was secretary, but Mr. Smith has refused to be responsible for the acts of the Akim Trading company or Chief Sam, and in the new company chartered in South Dakota this man Sam and his friends are the whole directory.

"The sheriff of Okfuskee county has in his possession a letter from parties in Pennsylvania stating that three years ago this same man Sam came to that section selling shares at \$5 per share and that he collected considerable money and left for parts unknown and that they had not heard from nor of him until one of the former victims saw in a newspaper that Chief Sam was playing his game in Clearview, Okla.

"A representative of the British government has pronounced the scheme of

this man Sam as a fake and has so stated in a letter to the governor of the state of Oklahoma, which was published in the daily papers, yet these people refuse to pay attention to the warning. These poor misguided people will not believe reports and continue to follow this man Sam blindly and with no complaint.

"The Fort Smith Record of date of Dec. 14 had a lengthy article stating in the main the facts we have stated above, but no one seems to care what Sam does to these helpless Negroes, since they will not listen to reason, and the better class of the people of the county, white and Negroes, believe it is well to get rid of a class of undesirable citizens. After the report came out that a ship was to sail from Galveston about the 15th of December, some of these people who are following Sam actually sold property which did not belong to them and property which they did not have.

"They neglected their crops and followed the meetings of this man, and now they are homeless, out of money and camping out of doors in Weleetka, the headquarters of this movement, and the most of them are suffering and facing sickness and starvation, while Sam cares nothing about them or their welfare after he gets their money.

"In all there have been about twenty persons from Boley who have sold out and are following the movement of Chief Sam.

"C. B. Powell, mayor of Boley; W. L. Jones, postmaster; T. M. Haynes, Dr. J. L. Scott, B. Oliver and M. J. Jones, president Commercial club."

HUMAN LEOPARD SOCIETY
COMMITTING ATROCITIES
mond ad. 8-31-13
British Government Relentlessly Pursuing Hundred-Year-Old Organization

FREETOWN, SIERRA LEONE, W. A., Aug. 30—The murderous native organization of Sierra Leone, known all up and down the west coast of Africa as the Human Leopard Society, is being relentlessly pursued by the British authorities to its furthestmost hiding places. The determination is to extirpate it, but the task will be difficult, for this sinister and baneful association has obtained such a strong grip on the superstitious of the natives in its several hundred years of existence that it will fight and die hard.

The society is a secret organization. It has operated with particular atro-

city of recent years in the northern Sherbro district, and most if not all of the principal natives of this region belong to it.

Between twenty and thirty murders have been committed by members of the society since 1907. The purpose undoubtedly was to provide human flesh for their fellow members, but whether this was done merely for the gratification of the taste for cannibalism, or whether the killings were a part of some secret rite of the organization whereby the natives believe their mental and physical powers are increased has not been conclusively learned.

Matters reached such a crisis a few months ago that a special court was appointed and many arrests were made. Among the members placed on trial were several paramount chiefs. Eventually, under a special ordinance passed to suppress the society, seven men were executed for murder, two condemned to life imprisonment and eleven were expelled from the Protectorate.

In a report on the society and its recent atrocities the Governor of Sierra Leone, Sir Edward M. Meredith, expresses the opinion that while his drastic actions will tend to check the activities of the society, yet the blind belief of the natives in the efficacy of the medicines concocted by the organization; the fact that periodical sacrifices are considered necessary to renew the power of the remedies, and a tendency on the part of some of the natives to cannibalism pure and simple, are causes likely to contribute to the survival of the organization.

WORLD'S BIGGEST DIAMOND MINE
mond ad. 8-12-13
From Tit-Bits.

Twenty-five miles east of Pretoria is what is known as the Premier Diamond Mine, the biggest in the world, where 15,000 Kaffirs may be seen any day, digging, drilling, and loading trucks of "blue" earth, from which are extracted diamonds to the value of something like 2,000,000 pounds per annum.

The total value of diamonds exported from South Africa in a year is about 8,500,000 pounds sterling, and of this quantity about a quarter are discovered in the Premier Mine, the other two chief mines being the De Beers and Jagersfontein.

The Premier Mine was really discovered by Sir Thomas Cullinan, the present chairman, after whom the great Cullinan diamond of 3,025 carats, discovered in the Premier Mine, was named. It may be remembered that this diamond was presented to King George by the Transvaal government, and was cut into eleven flawless stones the largest of which is in the Imperial crown.

The Premier Mine possesses an area of 3,500 claims, equal to eighty acres, and at the present time 12,000,000 loads of treatable "blue" as the diamond-yielding earth is known, are dealt with every year. And such are the resources of the mine that it is calculated that during the next forty years the present annual output will be easily maintained.

At present the mine is about 350 feet deep, and it is considered practical to work to a depth of 1,500 feet. The quality of the stones discovered is increasing in value with the depth, and

in order to encourage honesty among the Kaffirs, a payment of three shillings a carat on all stones found and delivered to the compound managers is paid.

In addition to the 15,000 Kaffirs there are 1,000 whites working in the mine in various capacities. It is wonderfully equipped with electric plant and machinery, and is a fascinating sight after sunset, with "a thousand electric lights twinkling, eight searchlights concentrating on the crater, piercing the huge cloud of smoke rising from the mine after blasting, and many thousands of natives rushing down the side of the mine, shouting and singing merrily, to resume work for the night shift."

The Afro American Ledger
DR. LYON URGES THAT GERMANY'S CONCESSIONS BE WITHHELD
Baltimore 12-6-13
Dr. Ernest Lyon, the Liberian consul, sent a cablegram to his government Thursday asking that consideration be withheld on the efforts of the German Government to secure a concession in Liberia.

The German government, it appears, stipulates that the privilege of manufacturing and selling intoxicating liquors, and the temperance people of the world oppose the granting of the concession on this ground.

It is regarded that the introduction of the liquor traffic in Liberia would be destructive to the native races. Dr. Lyons' attention was called to this place of the matter and the cablegram of protest followed.

Delegates from the National Anti-saloon League were in Washington this week to petition Congress to pass a constitutional amendment prohibiting the liquor traffic, also sought the act of President Wilson and his Cabinet in presenting the German liquor interests from getting a foothold in Liberia.

■ We can not state too clearly nor accentuate the thought too forcibly that we regard the movement represented by the National Association as a great cause, too great and too holy to be made the means of exploitation or the gradification of selfish ends, whether such ends are the outgrowth of business, social or political aspirations.

WARNER T. McGUINN
D. O. W. HOLMES
A. O. REID, Legal Redress Com.
F. N. CARDOZO, president of Baltimore Branch N. A. A. C. P.
GEORGE B. MURPHY, Chairman Executive Com.



DR. ERNEST LYON.

SOUTH AFRICAN PRINCE TO WED VIRGINIA NEGRO
mond ad. 9-23-13
Saves Father Twenty-Five or Thirty Cows, the Cost of a Zulu Wife.

NEW YORK, Sept. 29—Having won an education and a bride in New York Prince Nadikano on the Sheallie, Jr. of Durban, Natal, Southeast Africa, is arranging to sail on November 14 as a missionary to his people. He will be married October 20 at Danville, Va. to Julia I. Smith, an American negro girl, who was a student at Hampton Institute. By picking a foreign spouse the prince saves his father, who is governor of a province in Zululand, twenty-five or thirty cows, the cost of a Zulu wife.

The prince was sent to this country nine years ago by his father, who had been converted to Christianity and who wanted to give one of his sons a Christian education. As a missionary Prince Nadikano's expenses were paid by Hampton Institute. He intends to start a campaign against the polygamous customs of his people, some of whom have from ten to twenty-five

REV. E. G. GRANVILLE-SUTTON

SIERRA LEONE

W. C. AFRICA

DAVIDSON JABAVU

B. A. LONDON UNIVERSITY

KING WILLIAMS TOWN
SOUTH AFRICA

Africa - 1913

Current (See also under Race Problem Africa)

Davidson Jabavu

"Kingsmead"

Selly Oak

Birmingham, England,

until June 1914

Then, permanently
King Williams Town
South Africa

9

J. B. M. M. M.

Large -

Kimberley, South Africa

AFRICA FOR AFRICANS.

There was a time, some sixteen years ago, when THE AGE expressed the hope that Africa would ultimately be redeemed to civilization for the Africans. At that time there was good grounds for the hope, as the European powers had not then divided the Continent into "spheres of influence" and entered actively upon the policy of conquest for European colonization and commercial development; "the conquest of Africa for Christ" was yet the war cry of the nations, with the faithful missionary as the advanced messenger of "peace on earth, good will to men." But the colonization and commercial policy has so far overshadowed the missionary policy, and the drastic form of government adopted for the natives, as to leave small hope that the native African will in the end get any more out of European invasion and occupation than the North American Indians have got. It begins to look as though the Ishmael of Esau and the Israel of Ephraim in Asia and Africa were doomed, except as to the remnant of them scattered in the nations. *New York Age*.

What Europeans have done to conquer Africa for the Europeans, and what measures in some sort the magnitude of that conquest, is indicated by the two following items taken from separate pages of The New York Times of the same date: 3-13-13

PARIS, March 3.—At a council of Ministers to-day the Minister of the Colonies informed his colleagues that wireless messages were exchanged yesterday for the first time between the Eiffel Tower and Lake Tchad in Central Africa.

The distance is about 2,810 miles.

Thomas Thorne, manager of the White Star Mediterranean service, sails to-day on the Cedric for Egypt to investigate the conditions of the steamboat passenger traffic on the Nile from Cairo to Assouan on the first cataract. He intends to go as far as Wadi Halfa at the second cataract of the ancient historical river, where the Winter train de luxe starts for Khartum.

There is already an English and a German steamboat company operating on the Nile, and if the International Mercantile Marine Company, which owns the White Star fleet, constructs a fleet of stern-wheel vessels for the Nile in connection with their Mediterranean service it is understood that they will fly the American flag.

The Cedric has nearly 400 passengers booked for Egypt and the Holy Land.

There must be great black men in Africa, but we do not know of them as great leaders of government building and captains of commerce; most of them are engaged in missionary "conquest of Africa for Christ" and depending upon poor churchmen in Europe and America for the money which to do it—instead of digging the money out of the fabulously rich mountains, valleys and forests of the country, even after Europeans have shown them that Africa is one of the richest continents on the globe in mineral, cereal and wood and dye stuff resources. It seems with the native Africans to be an aggravating and provoking case of "having eyes they see not, and having ears they hear not."

During the coming fifty years the American Negro will take more interest and watch more closely than he has done in the past the course of events on the continent of Africa, for signs to encourage him in the hope that the African in Africa is not to go the way that returns not of the Indian in North, Central and South America, the Kanakas and Polynesians of the lost Oceanica and the Malays of Australia and its archipelagic affinities. The African in Africa should have much to say and do within that time towards fixing for all time the future of his races in Africa. Will he say and do much? He had better than not.

SOUTHERN NIGERIA LAND PROBLEMS.

THE HON. A. EDUN REPLIES TO MR. MOREL.

To the Editor of THE AFRICAN WORLD.

SIR.—I beg that you will not deny me the indulgence of your columns to discharge a duty I owe to the Protectorate of Southern Nigeria and to the British public—an unpalatable duty which has been forced upon me, as will be seen.

From the leading article of the editor of the "African Mail," of July 4, and his angry comments on the calm and temperate reply of the Organising Secretary of the Anti-Slavery and Aborigines Protection Society, the Rev. J. H. Harris, to that article, it would appear that Mr. E. D. Morel is disturbed at the presence recently in England of the chiefs and others from Southern Nigeria, and the purposes and object of their mission, and alarmed by the sympathy they have received from the British public.

Mr. Morel complains that I made statements to the Press of this country "to the effect that Mr. Edun and his friends are there to protest against the proposition of the Crown to take over all lands and regulate their transfer as is done at present in Northern Nigeria," and proceeding, the editor threatens "that it is perhaps just as well for Mr. Edun and for those who are permitting these statements (which we believe to be wholly unfounded) to be trumpeted up and down the country, that he and they are, for the moment, protected by the reticence which the members composing the West African Lands Committee are perforce compelled to observe." Against this complaint and threat let me call attention to a letter on West African Land, written by Mr. Morel, published in the "Times," of June 6, 1912, and which he, posing as an authority on West African matters, got some very good people to endorse. Mr. Morel, in that letter, *inter alia*, writes:—

"The Land and Native Rights Ordinance, 1911, establishes the three cardinal features of native law and custom, which after careful investigation on the spot and discussion at the Colonial Office, was ascertained to prevail throughout the Protectorate. These features are:—(1) That the whole of the land, whether occupied or unoccupied at the moment, is native land, i.e., land held by the heads of the community in trust for that community. (2) That the whole of the land is controlled by the Governor, who, through conquest, has become the paramount chief, to be administered by him for the use and common benefit of the people of Northern Nigeria. (3) That the Governor's power shall be exercised in accordance with native law and custom."

"In Southern Nigeria, in the Gold Coast, and in Sierra Leone, however, the land question has not been regulated. The Government has no ultimate control over the land, merely exercising the right of interference under specified circumstances, which in the case of the Gold Coast and Southern Nigeria would hardly seem sufficient to meet the situation which has actually arisen, or which is threatened. Inquiries in both the the Gold Coast and Southern Nigeria as to the character of native land tenure

have been recently prosecuted, and reports are understood to be in preparation. In Sierra Leone no such inquiry has been held. From what is already known of the native system in these dependencies there is little doubt that law and custom are substantially the same there as in Northern Nigeria, and it would appear highly desirable that the Colonial Office should examine how far it is expedient and practicable to extend the principle which has inspired the legislation of Northern Nigeria to these other dependencies.

"What is required in all these our tropical dependencies in West Africa, where there are no white settlers, are Land Acts which, however they may vary in their form of wording and in their application in accordance with the character of the political relationship prevailing between their inhabitants and the paramount Power, shall secure the three-fold aim of legalising the rights of the native to the occupancy and use of the soil."

We venture to suggest that an experienced committee might, as was done in the case of Northern Nigeria, be appointed by the Colonial Office to inquire into the problem which the letter raises, and which goes to the foundation of sound administration in these tropical regions under British protection."

The italics are mine throughout, but they do a tale unfold which strikes at the most vital interests of the kings, chiefs, and people of the Protectorate of Southern Nigeria.

I submit that in the above extract no language can be plainer in enunciating the following propositions:—

1. The members of the communities of Southern Nigeria—whether the tribal group, or the family, or individual unit—should enjoy only the right of occupancy in their own ancestral lands.

2. The land in the Protectorate of Southern Nigeria should be controlled by the Governor, the local representative of the British Crown—the protecting over-lord—to whom the people must transfer their ancestral right of ownership of their lands, and be content to enjoy the right of occupancy and use.

3. The principle of the land legislation generally of Northern Nigeria, with such modifications as local conditions may render necessary, should be extended to the Southern Nigerian Protectorate.

These are the propositions of Mr. Morel, which have caused widespread alarm and apprehension throughout the length and breadth of Southern Nigeria. It was in view of these propositions that the presence of the Nigerian chiefs in England became necessary to give evidence before the West African Lands Committee. With a cautionness to eliminate the personal equation—to which regard I now feel that Mr. Morel was not entitled—I had always referred to his propositions in my public utterances without mentioning the name of their author. It would thus be seen that we do not, and it would be obvious that, indeed, we could not, protest against "the proposition of the Crown"—for the Crown has not yet made any proposition—but against the proposition of Mr. Morel to the Crown, "to take over all lands and regulate their transfer, as is done at present in Northern Nigeria." Mr. Morel complains that THE AFRICAN WORLD "described the chiefs' visit as being for the purpose of deterring the com-

mittee from the recommending or sanctioning any measure which would legalise alienation of the land from the natives." When it is remembered that Mr. Morel is a member of this very committee, that he is the fons et origo of its existence, it would be seen how strictly accurate is the description of THE AFRICAN WORLD, and how very necessary it was that the delegation should use all legitimate means at their command "to deter the committee from recommending or sanctioning any measure which would legalise alienation of the land from the natives"—a measure which might be proposed by any of its members who had shown himself to hold very strong views on the subject.

Mr. Morel is evidently determined to pick a quarrel with us and—it would appear—even with the committee of the society of which he is vice-president, but he would be appear to be only quarreling with the logical conclusions of his own propositions. He would do well to remember that there was no land question in Southern Nigeria until he created one, and the "widespread misapprehension" he complains of is but a ripple of the agitation he has set in motion. Mr. Morel lays a knife on our throat, we cry out, and then he turns round and with a frown says to us reproachfully, "How dare you make that noise?"

The Nigerian chiefs and others who, in appreciation of Mr. Secretary Harcourt's liberal-spirited concession, and under the kind auspices of the Anti-Slavery and Aborigines Society, were here to give their evidence before the Departmental Committee of the Colonial Office have—with but one exception—sincer returned to their country in a hopeful mood, and with unqualified confidence in Mr. Harcourt. How thoroughly justified they were in their confidence will be seen by the following answer of the Colonial Secretary to Mr. Cathcart Wason's question in the House of Commons on July 14:

Mr. Cathcart Wason asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies "whether, as stated by those who purport to represent the views of chiefs and other natives from Southern Nigeria now visiting this country, the Government proposes to transfer the ownership of the land in Southern Nigeria from the native communities to the Crown, or to dispossess the native of their land?"

Mr. Harcourt replied as follows:—

"No sir. The Government have never made, have never entertained, and would not entertain such a proposal"—which, being paraphrased, read:—

"Now sir, Some individual or individuals may have made, but the Government have never made—some individual or individuals may have entertained, but the Government have never entertained—a Minority Report from Mr. E. D. Morel, or even the whole of the West African Lands Committee may recommend, but the Government would not entertain such a proposal."

If the presence in England of the chiefs and other natives from Southern Nigeria had done nothing more than elicit this official assurance from

Mr. Secretary Harcourt, the delegation would have been more than amply rewarded for the task they have undertaken for hearth and home.—Yours truly,

A. EDUN.

Secretary to the Native State of Abeokuta, and a member of the Southern Nigeria Land

Delegation.
37, Ebury Victoria, Street, S.W.,
August 7, 1913.

African World.

Africa Current
(See also under Race Problem, Africa)

MENELIK OF ABYSSINIA

AGAIN REPORTED DEAD

Mond. Adv. 12-4-13

Grandson Said to Have Been
Crowned With Pomp

NO OFFICIAL NOTICE

Several Rumors Received in
Former Years as to Mon-
arch's Death

LONDON, Feb. 3—King Menelik, of Abyssinia, is dead, according to a dispatch received here from Addis-Abeba today. His successor, Prince Lidj Jeassu, one of his grandsons, entered the capital on Sunday with great pomp.

No official confirmation has been received here of the death of Menelik, who has on several previous occasions been reported dead.

Prince Lidj Jeassu, who is said to have entered the Abyssinian capital as the new Emperor, is only 17 years old. He was selected several years ago by Menelik as his successor. He is a youth of great intelligence, son of Ras Michael, a powerful Prince and Governor of three Abyssinian provinces, whose wife was Menelik's daughter. Lidj Jeassu speaks English, French and German, and has been instructed by European tutors.

Many Rumors Before.

There have been many rumors during the past five years of Menelik's death. It was reported at one time that the fact was being suppressed and that the Empress was conducting the affairs of the Abyssinian kingdom until Lidj Jeassu was old enough to take the government into his own hands. This was denied officially. At the beginning of last year Menelik was reported to be paralyzed below the waist and since then there has been uncertainty as to whether he was really dead or alive.

The kingdom of Abyssinia has a population of 8,000,000 and possesses a powerful army. The political institutions are feudal in character.

There is a sort of State Council which possesses very little authority and a Council of Ministers with all the usual portfolios. Menelik became the ruler in 1889.

KING MENELIK AGAIN IS REPORTED TO BE DEAD

LONDON, Dec. 26—A dispatch from Jibuti, Africa, says that Emperor Menelik of Abyssinia died at Addis-Abeba, King Menelik, who was born in 1844,

has been reported dead on several occasions. Special despatches from Addis Abeba last week had announced his death, and the succession of Prince Lidj Jeassu, one of his grandsons.

EMPEROR MENELIK IS DEAD SAY LATE DISPATCHES

ROME, Dec. 20—That Emperor Menelik of Abyssinia died on December 12, is confirmed in the latest despatches received here from Addis Abeba, the Abyssinian capital. Although official notice of the Emperor's death is lacking, this probably is due to the necessity of precautions being taken to insure the succession to the throne.

A cablegram announcement of February 3, dated at London, that King Menelik of Abyssinia and Ethiopia, was just dead, was denied by a Rome cablegram of the 4th instant. Menelik has been a great ruler, and while outsiders are anxious that he be dead his own people are determined to keep him alive, though dead, as long as they can. The newspapers had the King dead and buried many times last year.

MENELIK ALIVE

EMPEROR OF ABYSSINIA ELEVEN
TIMES DEAD, IS GIVEN AN-
OTHER LEASE ON LIFE.

Latest despatches from Paris state that Emperor Menelik of Abyssinia, is still alive. The African potentate seems to be the only human being who can boast of having beaten the proverbial cat at its nine lives game. He has equaled this feline, and outdistanced him by two points.

On December 17 the world received through the various telegraphic agencies, news of the 11th demise of this famous monarch. This report coming from the French capital would seem to be correct. The French are the only people who have the leeway in the tight little kingdom. Many of the sons of Abyssinia are educated in Paris. French is freely spoken in the kingdom, and on August 2, 1913, a weekly newspaper was launched by a few residents of Addis Abeba of French birth. This paper is called "Le Courrier D'Ethiopie," and is published every Sunday.

In his palmiest days Menelik was a power; he made for himself a name in Europe which monarchs of greater pretensions were feign to envy and there were many who desired to see his downfall. Many attempts were made to crush him, but the crafty potentate always emerged tri-

umphant. But his greatest achievement was at the Pass of Adowa in 1900, when he completely annihilated the Italian army. This feat surprised the civilized world, and the sable Emperor of Abyssinia was looked upon as a power to the reckoned with. In later years although declining in health and enfeebled by age, he has succeeded in holding in check the tyrannous monarchs of neighboring petty States. Eleven times Menelik has been reported dead, and eleven times the report has been denied. It would seem that things in Addis Abeba are wrapped in mystery, and when Menelik really passes from this stage no one will be the wiser.

KING MENELEK OF ABYSSINIA WHO IS AGAIN REPORTED DEAD

